

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) added the following statement to the official record of the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday to honor the life of Danville Town Councilmember Michael Shimansky, who recently passed away.

Congressman McNerney also plans to join the Danville community in remembering Councilmember Shimansky at a service tomorrow, Saturday, October 3rd, at 3:00 p.m. The memorial will be held at Oak Hill Park, located at 3005 Stone Valley Road in Danville.

The text of the Congressional Record Statement is below.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL SHIMANSKY

“Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Michael Shimansky, who passed away peacefully at age 65 on September 15, 2009.

“Mike Shimansky was the longest serving member of the Danville Town Council since the town's incorporation in 1982. He was elected in 1989 and served for 20 years with a deep rooted sense of public service and strong belief in giving back to the community in which he lived. I knew Mike on a personal basis, and he was a warm and genuine man. His passion for public service extended beyond his role as a Danville Town Council member. He was well known for officiating local soccer games, lacrosse games and track meets. I remember Mike as a fixture at events to raise money for positive causes, such as presiding over Primo's Run for Education, and the Hats Off America Run, which raises money for the benefit of surviving families of our fallen soldiers.

“Mr. Shimansky also represented the town of Danville through appointments to numerous other boards, committees and commissions. He was currently serving on the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, Contra Costa Transit Authority, and San Ramon Valley Disaster Council; and as the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference appointee on the S.F. Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board and the East Bay Regional Park District Advisory Committee and the Elections Citizen Advisory Committee. Prior to his election to the town council, Mr. Shimansky served as a member of the town's inaugural Parks and Leisure Services

Commission.

“Mike was also a friend to our veterans in the San Ramon Valley. As a member of the Danville Park and Leisure Services Commission, he was instrumental in the establishment of the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park. A local veterans organization, the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley described him as, ‘a truly outstanding and dedicated--beloved man of the community--in which he served and lived.’

“Michael Shimansky's passion for public service did not stop at home. In addition to being deeply involved in the local community, he volunteered to help his fellow citizens during times of national crisis, by going to New Orleans to join the American Red Cross' efforts in both the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and during the wildfires that devastated many homes and communities in San Diego County in 2007.

“Mike was a valued and respected leader who touched the lives of many and improved the quality of life in Danville for decades to come. He always worked for the common good and led by example. In the words of one of his fellow council members, ‘People loved him for his work ethic. Every decision he made, he had the people of Danville in mind.’

“Michael Shimansky's efforts as a volunteer and unwavering dedication to public service leave a legacy that will continue to benefit the people of Danville, the State of California and our great Nation for generations to come. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Michael Shimansky in sending our thoughts and prayers to his beloved family and friends.”